



**First
Presbyterian**
ALLENTOWN

2017 Annual Report

FROM THE LEAD PASTOR

Beloved FPCA Friend,

We've had quite a year.

- From the shift in worship times initiated on Epiphany to the seven worship services shared on Christmas Eve,
- From granting Mike Drake honorable retirement and "Pastor Emeritus" status to the hiring of directors for mission, high school, middle school, children and family ministries,
- From the erecting of a new children's playground to the launch of the DIG ("VBS on steroids") church school,
- From expansions of our local mission outreach to additions to our global mission efforts,
- From bidding a sad fare-thee-well to members called home to heaven, to welcoming 49 new members ...

... we have been *Growing as Disciples in Community*, thanks to our being *Rooted in Christ*.

Of course, the major task of the year has been one of getting to know one another – as pastor and congregation – with us gradually *figuring each other out*.

As you read through the annual reports, be sure to take note of the innovations that your ministry teams have initiated. As your new pastor, I brought with me a model of leadership that is less staff-driven than team-driven and session-guided. Such an "orientation toward innovation" aims to encourage every one of us – including you – to follow George Bernard Shaw's example (quoted by Robert F. Kennedy), "You see things; and you say, 'Why?' But I dream things that never were; and I say, 'Why not?'"

If church life feels a bit less buttoned down, that's because I believe in the depth of my heart that the Holy Spirit was given to each of us to unleash us, to launch us, to diversify us.

Accordingly, the newest ideas for ministry and mission service come not just from the pastors and program staff members (although our spiritual gifts, training and experience do offer expertise and innovative ideas). Many of the best ideas come from you and your 1600+ fellow members, who have been given the Holy Spirit, along with your own spiritual gifts, training and expertise in order to offer innovative ideas and energy of your own that can help us together to accomplish things that most of us have not imagined.

Get it? Well, get used to it. An orientation toward innovation is one that can feel disruptive at times, but, when fueled by the Holy Spirit, it leads to impactful ministry. Oh, we do "button down" some aspects of our work. We pre-test new ideas and trust the Session and Diaconate to finalize approval for new programming. We also develop a budget and work within its bounds (as you will see in the report of the Budget and Finance Team). But we need to be ever-attentive to the winds of the Spirit to discern where God is leading, and to watch to see what amazing things God will do as a result.

I trust and pray that your participation in our annual meeting will prove to be enriching and empowering, so that you may be unleashed, launched and diversified – as the Spirit leads.

Grace and peace to you and yours,



Jack Haberer, Lead Pastor

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Agenda

Annual Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation

*First Presbyterian Church, Allentown, PA
February 11, 2018*

Call to Order and Opening Prayer	Jack Haberer, Moderator
Distribution of Annual Reports	
Determining a Quorum	Janet Ney, Clerk of Session
Comments from the Lead Pastor	Jack Haberer
Report on Current Financial Status	Larry Erickson Treasurer
2018 Budget Discussion	Larry Deal Church Business Administrator
Proposed Changes in Terms of Call	Elder Bob Miller Personnel Team Lead
Nominating Report, Election of Officers and 2018 Nominating Committee	Elder Becky Short, Nominating Team Lead
Other Business as appropriate	
Adjournment and Closing Prayer	Jack Haberer

The Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church of Allentown

First Presbyterian Church of Allentown is a diverse body of faith committed to living God's love in the way of Jesus Christ. We do this through worship, study, service, and relationships for the common good of our community and the world.

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Membership	1922	1949	1880	1877	1671	1686	1686
Additions (letter of transfer, profession of faith)	99	124	63	51	46	66	49
Losses (letter of transfer, removal, death)	119	99	132	54	251	89	49
Net Gain/Loss	-20	25	-68	-3	-174	-23	0
Included in the above numbers:							
Removal	88	66	91	19	194	39	12
Deaths	31	31	41	28	31	32	27
Baptism, Wedding and Worship Attendance summary:							
Baptisms	30	25	26	18	19	14	17
Weddings	14	11	12	15	20	10	12
Funerals	29	27	34	29	33	27	19
Average Worship	823	875	853	827	677	614	602
Easter Worship	1978	1954	1807	2041	1477	1297	1280
Christmas Eve Worship*	2740	2404	2391	2328	1984	2002	2050
<i>*not included in average attendance calculation</i>							

2017 Financial Position (unaudited)

<u>Assets</u>		<u>Liabilities & Fund Balances</u>	
General Fund	1,046,253	General Fund	264,904
		Session Designated Funds	241,370
		Deacon's Funds	4,440
Property Fund	1,813,103	Restricted Funds	530,379
Endowment Funds	<u>2,995,916</u>	Property Fund	1,813,103
		Endowment Funds	<u>2,986,213</u>
			5,840,409
		Surplus (Deficit)	<u>14,863</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>5,855,272</u></u>	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE	<u><u>5,855,272</u></u>

The above represents our unaudited 2017 Balance Sheet showing our assets, liabilities, and fund balance at the end of fiscal year 2017

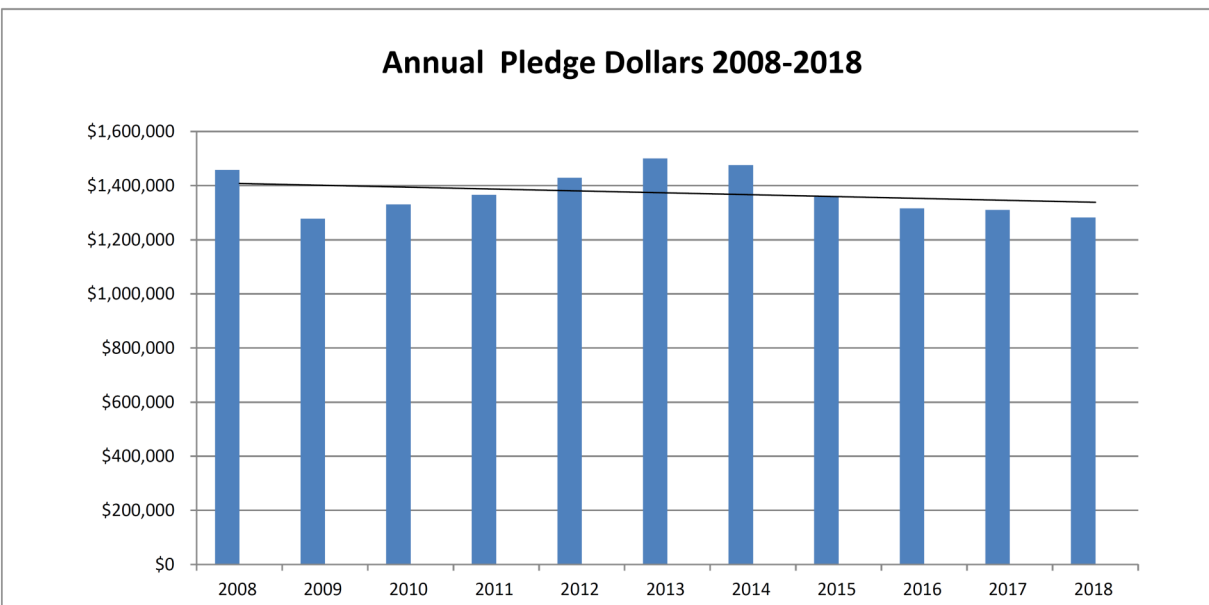
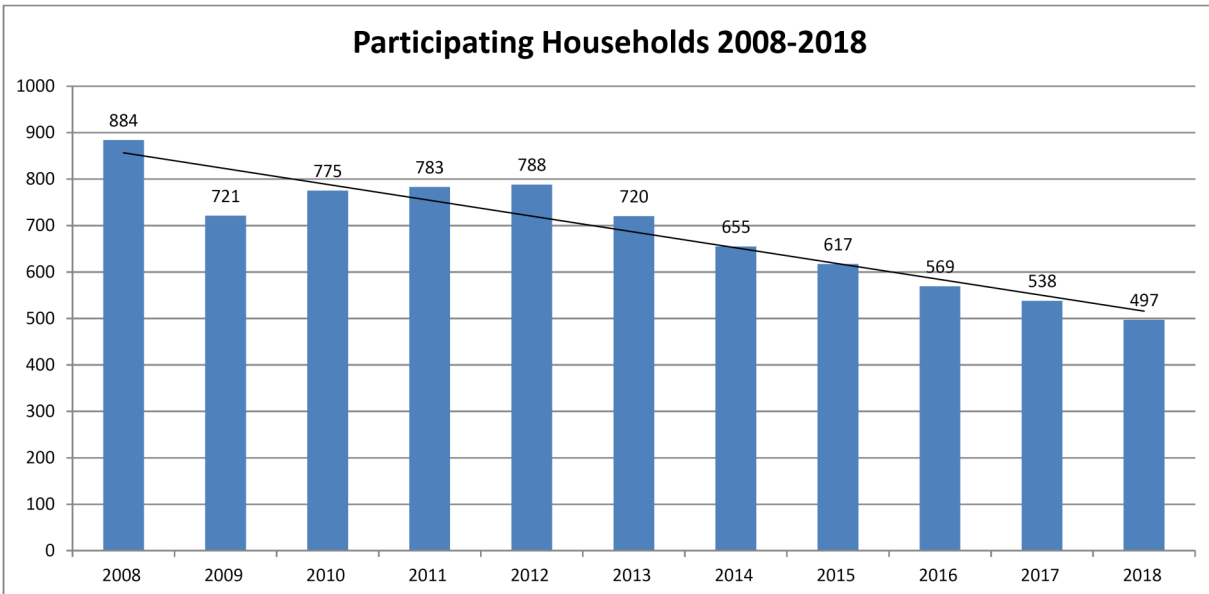
Fund balance is a rolling number that includes our beginning balance, our operating surplus, and our gains/ losses on investments

2017 Results of Operations (unaudited)

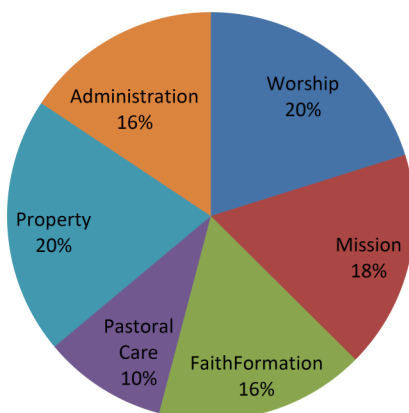
	<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
General Fund Revenue	1,593,591	Worship	29,421
Restricted Mission Income	71,760	Restricted Mission	71,795
		Mission	125,685
		Discipleship and Pastoral Care	63,527
		Ministry Support- Office	92,933
		Facilities/Plant	187,485
		Staffing	<u>1,079,642</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	<u>1,665,351</u>	TOTAL EXPENSE	1,650,488
PROJECTED SURPLUS			<u>14,863</u>

Households Participating in Annual Pledge Campaign

Dollars Pledged	Year	Participation
\$1,458,070	2008	884
\$1,277,822	2009	721
\$1,330,676	2010	775
\$1,366,340	2011	783
\$1,429,420	2012	788
\$1,500,605	2013	720
\$1,475,995	2014	655
\$1,358,602	2015	617
\$1,316,261	2016	569
\$1,310,117	2017	538
\$1,281,800	2018	497



2018 Budget by Ministry Area and Staff Investment



This graph shows a breakout of planned expenditures per ministry area, and includes the corresponding staff members' and pastors' salary in each ministry area.

2018 Budget

		<u>RECEIPTS</u>			<u>EXPENDITURES</u>
General Fund Revenue				Worship	30,000
2018 Pledges	1,281,800		Restricted Mission	71,795	
Non Pledge Income	206,000		Mission	143,100	
Interest & Other Income	150,600		Discipleship and Pastoral Care	56,300	
Restricted Mission Income	71,795		Ministry Support- Office	84,900	
			Facilities/Plant	196,480	
			Staffing	1,124,823	
TOTAL REVENUE	1,710,195		TOTAL EXPENSE	1,707,398	
PROJECTED SURPLUS				2,797	

FPCA continues to be blessed with wonderful staff. New to 2017 are bolded in the list below:

Ministers

All Members and Friends of FPCA

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Dr. Jack Haberer, Lead Pastor

Rev. Stephen Emick, Pastor for Discipleship

Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Pastor for Pastoral Care

Moufid Khoury, Commissioned Lay Pastor for Arabic Ministry

Abraham Sang, Chin Language Worship Leader

Rev. Dr. Michael Drake, Rev. John K. Stoner, Pastors Emeriti

Worship Staff

Thomas Dressler, Coordinator, Traditional Worship

Obadiah Gonzalez, Assistant, Alternative Worship

Brandon Remp, Assistant, Traditional Worship

Bobby Siegfried, Coordinator, Alternative Worship

Mission Staff

Donna Barnwell, Mission Director

Barbara Culp, Weekday Preschool Director

Pam Weiss, Director, Adult Faith Formation and Connections

Weekday Preschool Staff: Trish Brown, Barb Culp, Lydia Day, Lori George, Heidi Hartman,

Meda Henry, Jen Kareha, Andrea Moczydlowski, Mary Ellen Moczydlowski, Colleen Ritter,

Molly Szewczak, Carole Yezefski

Faith Formation Staff

Tina Beck, Child Care Coordinator

JoAnn Jones, Director, Children & Tween Ministry

Kieran Kehlor, Director, Middle School Ministry

Kathy Schmied, Director, Family Ministry

Dana Yashou, Director, High School Ministry

Child Care Staff: Logan Beck, Lauren Daniel, Aimee Hutchinson, Molly Kidd, Barbara Young

Ministry Support

Larry Deal, Business Administrator

Kelsey Doney, Ministry Support, Faith Formation and Mission

Roger Drayer, Property Manager

Tara Drayer, Staff Accountant

Caley Oels, Communications Coordinator

Joanne Stock, Ministry Support

Custodians: **Harry Dennis**, Chris Dobitsch, Scott MacKenzie

Parish Associates

Rev. Dianne Kareha, Rev. Dr. Gregory Palmer

The Nominating Team is comprised of members elected by the congregation to serve three year terms. The team is responsible to invite members to serve as Ruling Elders, Deacons and Nominating Team members to be elected annually by the congregation.

The Nominating Team members are Amanda Mack, Dave Long, JoAnn Jones, Cindy Cianela, Karen Layfield, Joel Haddad, Becky Short (Lead). Jack Haberer and Pam Weiss, church staff, are ex officio members of the team also (without vote).

It is with great pleasure that our team presents the following slate of individuals for election to serve in the respective areas listed. These members of the Class of 2021 will serve a three year term starting May 1, 2018.

Nominees for Session

Anne Ferrera – Faith Formation
Alicen Bailey-Silfies – Deacons
Jane Davenport (second term) – Mission
Larry Erikson (second term) – Treasurer
Roger Yott – Advancement
Deborah Palmer – Worship
Ken Sabotta – Building and Grounds

Nominees for Deacon

Ruth Asiedu-Ansah
Jayne David
Walt Eberts (second term)
Susan Keller
Lal Run Kim
Shawn Morgan
Todd Siegfried
Kevin Vrablik

Nominees for Nominating Team

Rick Ensley
Marti White

Leadership and Team Development

Purpose: To provide ongoing training, support, and mentoring in the areas of leadership theology, interpersonal leadership, team development skills, and church operations.

- *The Next Level Seminar* was held in the spring of 2017. Approximately 125 individuals involved in FPCA ministries have completed this seminar since it began in 2014. All members and friends of FPCA are invited to attend *The 2018 Next Level: Reaching Higher, Leading Better Seminar*, which begins on February 24. Almost 50% of the information presented at the seminar will be new this year.
- This spring, there also will be an *Officer Training Course* and mentoring program for new and current FPCA officers.
- *The Discipleship Café: Fall Leadership Gathering* held on October 28, 2017 was a success, with 63 attendees present. Stephen Emick gave an overview of the Discipleship model being implemented in the congregation and Jack Haberer offered a one-year “how-goes-it” set of observations along with some of his BHAGs for the future. We then gathered around tables to assess things we have done, are doing and might do, generating extensive feedback. The list of ideas were compiled and shared with the various FPCA teams and ministries to discuss and possibly implement in the future.

Traditional and Alternative Worship

- Our music program is flourishing. Three choir members died, but we have gained new members, and the size of the Chancel Choir continues to be 10% or more of the size of the congregation in the pews at the 10:30 service. We are also blessed with dedicated leadership by the 10:10 band, Youth Choir, Cantate Domino, the DIG, Adult and Youth Handbells.
- The Youth Choir travelled to New England, sharing the Word through music. They sang at two senior living facilities, performed at the Massachusetts state capitol, walked the Freedom Trail in Boston, and they sang in worship at First Presbyterian Church in Stanford—the “Fish Church.”
- On the third Sunday of Advent, all of the Traditional Choirs participated in a special service of Advent and Christmas music, providing joyful musical support of the season’s message.
- Early in December, The Belles reached out to the community by ringing at Daybreak and the At Home facility in Schnecksville.
- In March 2017, Chancel choir sang “Pater Noster,” by Alejandro Consolacion, one of Asia’s leading composers of choral music (Philippines), and a student of Thomas Dressler.

Whole Life Stewardship Team

Whole Life Stewardship is a relatively new ministry area within FPCA. Whole Life Stewardship’s focus is to create, for each member and friend, a transformative experience in Christian stewardship and generosity that will impact every area of their life. Our focus is on keeping Christian stewardship as a lifestyle to be lived, not an event to be planned. The details for this new ministry are taking shape. To date the Team, with the assistance of the Whole Life Stewardship Advisory Board:

- Has developed the new ministry area description and Elder position description.
- Has developed a five year ‘Look Ahead’ vision with key objectives for Whole Life Stewardship.
- Has developed a 12-month implementation plan for Whole Life Stewardship ministry.
- Has provided support and consultation to the Annual Giving Team.
- Has provided ongoing support for Financial Peace University (FPU) and Smart Money. (FPU is a nine-week program to help families and individuals learn how to effectively steward their financial resources in a biblically based way.)
- Has coordinated a parent education program called “Helping Your Kids Handle Money.”
- Has participated in a Christian Stewardship Forum to connect, learn, and exchange collective wisdom with stewardship pastors and lay leaders from around the world on stewardship ministry best practices.

Faith Formation Team

- Children's Church School
 - January-May, 2017: average weekly attendance of 46 Pre-School through 5th grade children and 15 adult leaders (range of 25-64).
 - As a result of several years of research by our Faith Formation teams, we began a new approach to children's Sunday morning faith formation in September named DIG.
 - September-December, 2017: average weekly attendance of 45 Pre-School through 5th grade children and 27 adult leaders (range of 34-65 children). Additional congregation members participate throughout the year in DIG creating opportunities for intergenerational sharing.
 - DIG involvement in worship took place at least once per six-week series. Approximately 45 Kindergarten-Grade 5 children sing in DIG Crew.
 - Supported mission through: World Vision, Roosevelt and Sheridan Elementary Schools, Daybreak, St. Paul's, Warming Station, and Community Bikeworks.
 - Thirty-three children received gifts of age-appropriate Bibles. Pre-Kindergarten children received a story Bible and third grade children received a children's NRSV study Bible.
 - There were numerous opportunities for congregation members to create the new décor for DIG.
- Vacation Bible School
 - The VBS theme was *Maker Fun Factory* and included 131 children and 46 volunteers as they explored "Created by God, Built for a Purpose."
- Tween Ministry (4th and 5th grade)
 - Tween Church School raised \$784 with their annual pretzel sale and donated the money to continue support for Francis, a student in Malawi, through World Vision (\$468) and to Community BikeWorks (\$316).
 - Tween First Friday events were well-attended and included ice skating, the annual pretzel sale, learning about food sustainability during a tour at Whole Foods Market, an overnight at the Lehigh Valley Zoo, playing mini-golf, an ice cream get-acquainted night, baking brownies for Hurricane Relief, Grim's Corn Maze, serving at the Daybreak Spaghetti Dinner, and decorating ornaments for a tree donation to the Sixth Street Shelter the second Sunday of every month throughout the year.
- Ministry with Parents and Families
 - Family Fellowship included events like Chili and Soup Night, Welcoming Children to the Lord's Table Class, Family Movie Night, Easter Egg Hunt, VBS Build Day, Story Time in the Garden, End of Summer Celebration, Children's Christmas Story Time, and Cookies in the Kitchen. Learning opportunities included an 8-hour Youth Mental Health First Aid Worship training for 13 attendees.
- Youth Church School
 - January-May, 2017: Middle School Faith Formation average attendance was 12 youth; High School Faith Formation average attendance was nine. Six leaders participated.
 - September-December, 2017: Middle School Faith Formation average attendance is 14 youth; High School Faith Formation average attendance is 12. Six leaders participated.
- Confirmation Class
 - Both the 2016-17 and 2017-18 Confirmation classes have had 11 Confirmands participate. In the 2016-17 class, 10 Confirmands made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.
 - The 2017-18 class includes 11 confirmands, five class leaders and 11 adult sponsors.

- Youth Ministry
 - Fourteen High School and eight Middle School youth participated in their respective spring lock-ins exploring opportunities to find God's grace in life's ordinary days and experiences.
 - Eleven high school seniors and three adult leaders attended the Graduating Senior Retreat.
 - Thirteen fifth graders and their parents participated in Quest 2024 as they transitioned from Children's Ministry into Youth Ministry.
 - Two summer youth ministry interns engaged middle and high school youth in a myriad of events and faith-filled conversations throughout the summer.
 - Many middle and high school youth continued our long-standing tradition of serving local agencies throughout the summer at our weekly Mission Mornings and over their winter break.
 - Eighteen Middle School youth and five leaders served in Monroe County on workcamp for three days in July.
 - High School Workcamp participants lived God's love in Philadelphia, PA at Broad Street Ministry for a week. Fifteen youth and six adult leaders participated.
 - Kieran Kehlor (Director of Middle School Ministry) and Dana Yashou (Director of High School Ministry) joined the staff as part-time directors in the fall.
 - The High School Retreat in November explored Christian identity and purpose through the movie, *Moana*. Nineteen high-schoolers and five adult leaders participated.
 - Middle- and High-School youth coordinated, promoted, and walked in this year's CROP Walk.
 - Middle School youth served at the Daybreak dinner and both Middle and High School youth served at the Women's Christmas Dinner.
 - Middle- and High-School Youth join in fellowship every Sunday evening after enjoying dinner together. The evenings include a variety of conversations, activities, and games reflecting a commitment to relationships, study, service, and worship.
 - High School youth prepare and serve breakfast at St. Paul's on the second Sunday of every month.
- Adult Ministry
 - Sunday Morning
 - Exploring God's Word – Conversations and study using Bible texts, related topics, and/or a topical book.
 - World and Faith Seminar – Series topics during the Spring of 2017 included Baptism, History of the Reformation, Theology of the Reformation, Anti-Semitism and the Reformation, Immigration and Refugee Ministry. In September of 2018, topics were planned according to our year-long church-wide theme and the focus of each series. Both guest presenters and presenters from within FPCA led the weekly classes.
 - Summer – Jack Treadway led weekly conversations according to current events and other topics.
 - Weekday On-going groups
 - Tuesday Co-Ed Bible Study
 - Wednesday Men's Discipleship Group
 - Friday Women's Bible Study
 - Saturday Morning Men's Group
 - Monthly – Book Lovers Group – Conversations about a book chosen by the group and read during the month leading up to the gathering on the 4th Tuesday of the month.
 - Small Groups
 - 2017 Lent Small Group – Lord, Teach Us To Pray: A Study of the Lord's Prayer – 126 participants
 - 2017 Advent Small Group – Rooted In Christ: Names for the Messiah – 133 participants
 - Autumn Special Interest Group – *Finding Myself in the Story of Race* – 18 participants
 - Journeys of Discipleship Milestone Events were moved to Connections Ministry and re-named All-Church Events.

Communications Team

- Continued to increase engagement through email, social media posts and video.
- Collaborated with members and friends to bring new stories and content to Tidings.
- Welcomed new team members to help improve communications, especially through digital media.
- Secured merchandise to help congregants show their pride in FPCA.

Mission*International/National Mission*

International/National Mission Team engages in creative initiatives which build relationships with our neighbors in the world and in our country. There is an intentional focus on the countries of Honduras, Malawi, and Syria. Nationally, the team has supported the work of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance which responds to natural disasters.

- Clothing Drive-This congregation-wide event collected 5,232 lbs. of clothing plus 452 lbs. of miscellaneous items. Big Brothers/Big Sisters collected the items and benefited; I/N earned \$1,069.00, which was allocated to the Malawi mission.
- Share the Harvest-This new congregation-wide initiative invited gardeners to offer homegrown produce on Sundays during July and August. The fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs were offered for anyone to choose, a cash donation was suggested. Remaining produce was sent to the Allentown Area Ecumenical Food Bank. The cash donations were allocated to the Malawi mission.
- Concert for Marlene Merz-a "Summer Harmony" concert, followed by light refreshments was held in memory of Marlene. The freewill offering was allocated to the Malawi mission. Approximately 160 people attended; more than \$5,000 was raised.
- Malawi Mission-sought individuals willing to travel to Malawi and report findings.
- Honduras Medical Mission-A team of medical and support personnel was formed. Planning and fundraising began for the Honduras 2018 medical mission.
- Honduras Mission-shared photographs and stories about lack of clean water and medical care in Honduras with the children in DIG.
- Alternative Gifts-Trees for Malawi and clean water for Honduras were offered to the congregation as International Alternative Gift options.
- Funding from mission budget:

○ Rural Sportsman Association: St. Jude's Benefit Shoot	\$100.00
○ Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: Hurricane Relief	\$2,000.00
○ Honduras Medical Mission	\$2,177.18
○ Offset airfare cost for mission to Malawi in 2018	\$2,000.00
○ Presbyterian Disaster Assistance: U.S.A. tornadoes/fires	\$1,000.00
○ Concert expenses:	\$617.79
○ Share the Harvest expenses:	\$114.15
○ Mission Fair expenses:	\$16.88
○ Purchased packaged soups from Women's Bean Project for January 2018 sale	\$474.00
- Funds distributed from fundraising:

○ Wanda Wood, Malawi mission	\$100.00
○ Villages in Partnership: 2018 Malawi mission costs	\$2,400.00
○ Villages in Partnership: Malawi projects	\$4,649.33
○ Living Water International:	\$1,636.00
- Funds raised for the Honduras Medical Mission:

○ Held in account 1222 until April 2018 mission.	
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*Peace & Justice and Missionaries Team**Peace & Justice*

Peace and Justice Mission seeks out opportunities to speak up for and to support those in our world, country, state, and city who are marginalized or are being treated unfairly. The team is involved in education concerning peace and issues which might go unnoticed in our world.

- Fair Trade: PJM had two opportunities to support fair trade in 2017 – during International Fair Trade Day in May and during the Alternative Gift Giving in December. In May, PJM partnered with a Presbyterian organization, Partners for Just Trade, that arose out of mission work in Peru. Although not intended as a fund-raiser, PJM supplied Partners for Just Trade with \$587.50 and netted \$27.50. In December, PJM purchased chocolate from the Presbyterian Coffee Project of Equal Exchange. Also not intended as a fundraiser, PJM supplied Equal Exchange with \$559.20 and netted \$387.80.
- Women for Women sponsorship: we again sponsored a “sister” with Women for Women International – Hannatu Sunday from Nigeria. She graduated on December 31, 2017, so we are looking to sponsor our fourth sister in 2018. A sponsorship costs \$420.00.
- Bread for the World: PJM helped plan, through the Lehigh Conference of Churches Justice and Advocacy Committee, several community meetings. In March and May, Listening Tour events took place to give BFW a chance to hear what the Lehigh Valley considered important in fighting hunger. In June, the “What’s Happening in My Town” event with recorded interviews at local food banks and pantries took place with the purpose of having advocacy videos for letter-writing and Congressional visits. The unfortunate loss of Sheena Rolle, BFW Pennsylvania liaison, due to reallocation of staff, put the project on hold.
- Offering of Letters letter writing took place at FPCA in September and 120 letters were part of the church offering on October 1, World Communion Sunday. Letters were again available for the CROP Walk on October 8 and 30 letters were signed by community members. The church donates \$1500 a year to BFW as part of its Covenant Relationship.
- Antiracism/prison ministry: In January, PJM connections with Crossroads Antiracism allowed for a presentation by Kara Bender to the Youth. PJM was encouraged to have conversations with local agencies that might be involved in “the plight of the African-American male.” These conversations led to support a summer staffer part-time for a Promise Neighborhoods project regarding social integration that seeks to address racial health inequities. PJM donated \$2500 for the salary of the staffer, calculated to give a \$15/hr fair wage.
- Immigration/refugees: PJM lent support to an Adult Sunday School program that took place in April on refugees, immigrants, and DACA recipients. The bulletin shared information (“Latin Allentown!”) about ethnic restaurants in the Lehigh Valley that were suffering because their regular customers feared harassment. In October, PJM again paired with LCC J&A to present a program on immigration and sanctuary. In addition to planning the event, PJM donated food and beverages – costing \$60.46.
- International visitors: A chance came for Rev. Peter Tibi from South Sudan to visit. Unfortunately, his visa to visit the U.S. was never issued and PJM’s purchase of Rev. Tibi’s plane ticket was not able to be refunded – \$263.80. We did, however, experience the joy of having Rev. Samuel Akhtar from Pakistan visit FPCA through PC(USA)’s International Peacemaker Program in September. Rev. Akhtar visited with members of the Mission Committee, participated in a Christian-Muslim dialogue (moderated by Jack Haberer), visited Luther Crest and First Presbyterian Bethlehem, spoke with the youth at FPCA, was interviewed on WDIY, and preached at East Stroudsburg Presbyterian. PJM provided the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program with \$450 for Rev. Akhtar’s visit and spent \$264.73 while he was here.
- Additional peacemaking efforts: Peace Camp took place in July at FPCA; the Peace Pilgrimage took place in December and placed a banner advertising their walk on FPCA’s lawn in November; PJM helped sponsor publication of the Covenant Among the Religious Communities of the Lehigh Valley on Christmas day in The Morning Call (signed by our three pastors, Clerk of Session Janet Ney, and other members of our congregation) – \$100.00.

Missionaries

- The Missionary Mission team maintains contact with the missionaries supported by FPCA. This can involve communicating with the missionary, planning for visits to FPCA by missionaries, and arranging for funding for the missionaries. Currently, FPCA supports:

Rev Shelvis and Nancy Smith-Mather – Uganda	Dori Hjalmarson – Honduras
Nadia Ayoub – Ukraine	Forman Christian College – Pakistan
- We missed another opportunity to visit with Rev. Shelvis Smith-Mather in January as he took a leave of absence from mission work to recover from losses of family and friends in the U.S. and friends that were suddenly under attack in South Sudan, as well as the frightening illness of his newborn daughter, Nicole. Shelvis and Nancy returned to mission work in March and moved their place of residence to Uganda to help the refugees from South Sudan in various refugee camps. PJM sent \$5000 to the Smith-Mathers to support their call.
- We gained a new mission co-worker, Dori Hjalmarson who will be working in Honduras. We had a chance to briefly visit with Dori in November, who was accompanied by PC(USA) Mission Engagement Advisor, Sy Hughes. PJM sent \$5000 to Dori Hjalmarson to support her call and spent \$178.07 to support her visit.
- We gained another mission – Forman Christian College in Pakistan. PJM sent \$2732.94 to support this Presbyterian institution, a 10,000 student, Christian university in a mostly Muslim country.
- We did not get a chance to visit with Nadia Ayoub, who works in Ukraine with the Roma people. PJM sent \$5000 to support her call.
- Although we no longer support Amy Galetzka, who is working with people fleeing Burma, we did send half the amount in 2016 we pledged to support (\$2500) for her 2017 salary, as per the PC(USA) request for long-term volunteers. We were surprised when we learned that Amy would no longer be sponsored by PC(USA) due to her relocation to Colorado. PC(USA) was grateful that we had sent the money to support her trip home so they didn't have to pull support from other missionaries.

The Refugee Mission Team

- The Refugee Mission team has been able to support the work of Bethany Christian Services, the agency responsible for resettling refugees in the Lehigh Valley. There is a decrease in the number of refugees coming to the United States, however, the Refugee team continues to offer support and assistance to the refugees who are currently in our area.
 Refugee Mission Expenditures 2017: Bethany Christian Services \$7,000.

Arabic Ministry Team

- The relief effort in Syria continues to be a major concern for all members of the church. We are helping the Amar church, with which we have a covenant relationship. Displaced Syrians are going back to their own villages from the major cities. The help is being provided by the generosity of members of this church.
- Asylum cases and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) cases remain a major part of our helping hand that we do on a regular basis.
- The yearly Middle Eastern Dinner where we host the congregation at large has been a success every year.
- We have solved a major problem in the Music Ministry. We are now providing honoraria for the pianists supporting the Arabic language service. Thanks to Personnel Committee.
- We are in the process of looking into the future of the Arabic Ministry through developing a new plan, which is under study at this time.
- Our social ministry towards new members and existing residents is still a major part of our ministry.
- We also cook monthly to those who utilize Daybreak services which is run by the Lehigh County of Churches.

Local Mission Team

Local Care Mission team focuses on our immediate neighbors in Allentown. The team works with existing agencies and ministries to fulfill needs for food, shelter, clothing, and relationships with Christ and each other.

- Daybreak at Dubbs Church: is a drop-in center open Monday-Friday. Clients who have mental issues, poverty (especially the elderly), physical disabilities or formerly incarcerated are in a structured program to rebuild their lives socially and emotionally. It is home to those who lost their way. This mission team does a number of events – meals 6 times a month, annual picnic, bingo prizes, annual plant sale, food items, art supplies and relational support. New event: Shoe purchases at Boscovs for the clients due to the generosity of the congregation through loose plate offering. People who attend Daybreak do not have the resources to purchase new clothing items; neither do they have \$ to buy bus passes. We try to do all that we can to tend to the needs of our brothers and sisters there at Dubbs Church at Fifth & Allen Streets.
- Jerusalem House at 9th & Turner Streets: Local Mission is actively involved with volunteer support, financial assistance, food and clothing donations to support Jerusalem House with their mission in providing the essential, Christ centered, link to the poorest of the poor within the four block radius of their community. Jerusalem House receives financial contributions from Local Mission toward operating expenses such as their utility bills, several food drives from the congregation and from Vacation Bible School to support their Food Bank and Thanksgiving Harvest celebration. Jerusalem House received a large number of our nutritional snack bags and school supplies throughout the year. Their staff participated in our church's garage sale. Pastors Daniel and Georgia Adams and their daughter, Michal are loyal caretakers of those who visit their ministry at 9th and Turner Streets.
- Ripple strives to be a Christ-Centered, Community-Focused church that seeks to have a ripple effect in our community of downtown Allentown by sharing Christ's love through acts of kindness, justice, and cultivation of healthy relationships. The ministry is diverse in many ways including race, ethnicity, economics, and skill sets working to be unified in Christ. They gather every Sunday for worship and share meals together twice a month. We have partnered with Ripple by attending worship and serving meals. Clothing & household items have been donated by Local Mission Team. Together we share our gifts and build our community to further God's kingdom here in Allentown especially among the homeless. Ministry is located at St Paul's Lutheran Church at 8th and Walnut Streets and staffed by several Mennonite Ministers.
- Winter Shelter of Allentown for the Homeless operates at Fountain Pool Premises. It has opened under the Everlasting Life Ministries leadership of Gary Millspaugh. There are 18 cots for men and 18 for women. Transport from Lanta is offered to attendees. A breakfast is served to these sojourners by downtown churches. FPCA is responsible for meals on Thursday & Friday & Saturday under the direction of Dennis Dries, Wed. Men's Bible Study & congregants. Blankets, clothing, household items and nutritional items have been given by this team throughout the year. Millspaugh and ELM with the aid of many generous donors have labored earnestly to make this shelter a reality.
- St Paul's Crossroads/Sunday Breakfasts- Breakfasts: take place the 2nd and 5th Sundays of each month. Food is supplied by Second Harvest; team does prep work and serving. The group of 90-100 consists of homeless and impoverished community. Crossroads @ St Paul's is community center for the homeless with afternoon programs and provides a safe, secure place for those who are in need.
- Sheridan Elementary School on Second Street and Roosevelt Community School (Susquehanna Street) are partnered with this team. Students are of a dire poverty level. Needs and services provided by team: knitted hats, winter coats, socks, underwear, toys, food items. Volunteering is done in reading programs and ElSistema as well as monetary support. Box tops from FPCA are a source of monetary gain. Team participates in various after school programs. Annual Back to School events include collection of uniforms, school supplies, back packs, and September celebration with food (hot dogs and trimmings)

Local Mission Continued

- Jubilee Breakfasts at Zion Liberty Bell Church – Thursday through Saturday program concurrent with operation of The Winter Warming Shelter.
- Allentown Ecumenical Food Bank – located at 6th & Chew Streets. Provides food relief to the hungry in Lehigh County giving enough food for 3-5 days to each participant. The majority of stock comes from Second Harvest and 25,000 families are served annually. Beverly Levenson of FPCA heads the Board of Directors.

Local Care Mission Expenditures

<u>Lehigh Conference of Churches</u>	\$6,000.00
<u>Westminster</u>	\$4,000.00
<u>Daybreak</u> - Budget	\$4,666.31
Spaghetti dinner fundraiser	\$2,991.67
Loose Plate Offering	\$1,191.59 (picnic)
Loose Plate Offering	\$2,568.48 (shoes)
<u>Jerusalem House</u> - Budget	\$298.65
Loose Plate offering	\$1,216.00
<u>Ripple</u> - Budget	\$1,083.20
Alternative Gift Giving	\$1,170.00
<u>Warming Station</u>	
Golf Tournament fundraiser	\$15,000.00
<u>Jubilee Breakfast</u> Budget	\$1,637.53
<u>Warming Station</u>	
Golf Tournament fundraiser	\$15,000.00
<u>Jubilee Breakfast</u>	
Budget	\$1,637.53

Quilting, Sewing and Craft Group

- The quilting, sewing and craft group ministry makes many one of a kind items that are offered for sale two times a year during sales held at church. The group also participates in the Lemon Tree Bazaar held at Westminster Presbyterian Home yearly in November. All proceeds from these sales are donated to the Auxiliary Association at Westminster. We were able to donate \$4,048.00 this past year as a result of the above sales.
- The group also partners with the Local Mission Committee in many ways. We continue to make and then donate the finished items. Some examples are the quilts that are donated to the 6th Street Shelter, fleece hats that are distributed to the Warming Shelter, hats and scarves for Jerusalem House and other groups as we learn of needs.
- Our newest ministry project this past year is the greeting card ministry. This group works year round to repurpose old donated greeting cards into new cards. The cards are sold for \$1.00 each and can be found in the library where they are displayed. All proceeds from this ministry are dedicated to help the homeless in LV and other mission projects. Proceeds amounted to \$700 this year.
- The hand quilting part of our group charges to hand quilt a quilt top. The proceeds from these projects are distributed to various mission projects as voted on by members of the sewing group. Quilting receipts amounted to \$475 this year.

2017 Monetary Donations:

Westminster Village Auxiliary	\$4,048.00
Jerusalem House	\$ 500.00
Intl Mission -	
IMO Marlene Merz	\$500.00 (designated \$250-Malawi; \$250-Honduras)

- Extended Care Teams comprised of Deacons and congregational members have extended pastoral care to about 156 members and friends after a hospital or rehab discharge; 6 families with new babies; over 20 homebound individuals or couples through quarterly contacts; and countless meals, made by members of our Caring Shelf team, which were made and delivered to those needing support.
- Currently there are 10 Pastoral Care team members who have provided personal visits once a month to 17 Care Receivers within our congregation.
- Extending the Table teams made 36 visits to offer communion to homebound or hospitalized members.
- Over 200 Sunday morning flower deliveries were made, plus deliveries of 48 poinsettias, and 46 Easter plants to our homebound members and friends.
- 19 active Stephen Ministers provided care to 16 Care Receivers, and 9 people were trained and commissioned to become Stephen Ministers.
- The Care of Leaders Team has been supporting all the Deacons and Session members currently serving, as well as those who have recently rolled off these Boards.
- Thanks to your generous donations (over \$2,000 in 2017), the Deacons Fund was able to provide financial support to 40 members of the community and our congregation, mostly through gifts of Spirit cards and help with bills and other expenses.

CURRENT LEADERSHIP

Current Session

Rev. Jack Haberer, Moderator
 Rev. Stephen Emick, Teaching Elder
 Rev. Lindsay Harren-Lewis, Teaching Elder
 Janet Ney, Clerk

Class of 2018 (4/30)

Jane Davenport
 Larry Erikson
 Kristi Smith
 Alice Stinebaugh
 Dorrie Graul
 Trevor Vaughan

Class of 2019 (4/30)

Dave Haight
 Bob Miller
 Peter Lehr
 Becky Short
 Bill Coles

Class of 2020 (4/30)

Becky Tacca
 Bob Martin
 Bob Livingston
 Ann Lalik
 Nida Hadeed
 Nang Hua Lian (Jonathan)
 Carl Veno

Current Deacons

Alicen Bailey-Silfies, Moderator
 Judy Venezie-Gagliardi, Vice Moderator
 Katie Trevino, Secretary

Class of 2018(4/30)

Walt Eberts
 Susan Height
 Jayne David
 John Harper

Class of 2019 (4/30)

Pat Lisetski
 Paul Mack
 Akweley Massaquoi
 Lois Henseler
 Judy Venezie-Gagliardi

Class of 2020 (4/30)

Nabeel Shammass
 Stuart Dubbs
 Kathleen Dent
 Katie Trevino

